

MTT RINGS IN 70 WITH CLASSIC APLOMB

Michael Tilson Thomas is widely renowned for his musical interpretations of Mahler, but the superlative skills of this masterful San Francisco Symphony maestro also render him a classical music “rock star.”

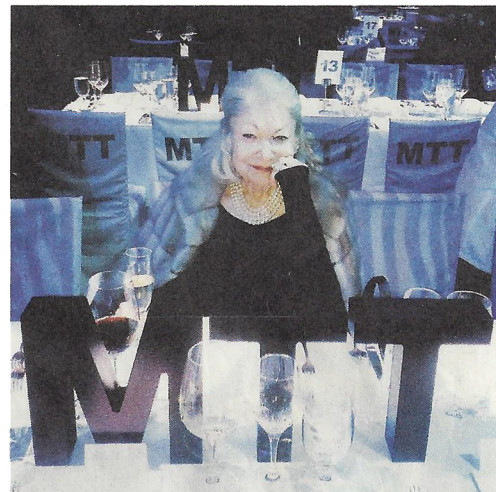
So on Jan. 15, 350 friends, musicians and deep-pocketed donors, along with a full orchestra audience, heralded a number of significant achievements racked up by this San Francisco Symphony music director, including the occasion of his 70th birthday.

Amid this mix: Gov. **Jerry Brown** and his wife, **Anne Gust Brown**; state Sen. **Mark Leno**; **Barbro** and **Bernard Osher**; **Doris Fisher**; **Charlotte** and **George Shultz**; **Dagmar Dolby**; Rep. **Nancy Pelosi** and her husband, **Paul**; Mayor **Ed Lee** and his wife, **Anita**; **Nancy** and **Sid Ganis**; **Denise Hale**; **Helen** and **John Meyer**; **Penny Coulter**; **Victoire** and **Owsley Brown**; **Judy Wilbur**; **Mark** and **Susie Buell**; **Yves Béhar** and **Sabrina Buell**; **Roger** and **Sloan Barnett**; **Gorretti Lo Lui**; **Yurie** and **Carl Pascarella**; **Jan** and **Maria Manetti Shrem**; along with Grammy Award-winning artists **Elvis Costello**, **Boz Scaggs**, **Lars Ulrich**, **Mickey Hart** and **Phil Lesh**.

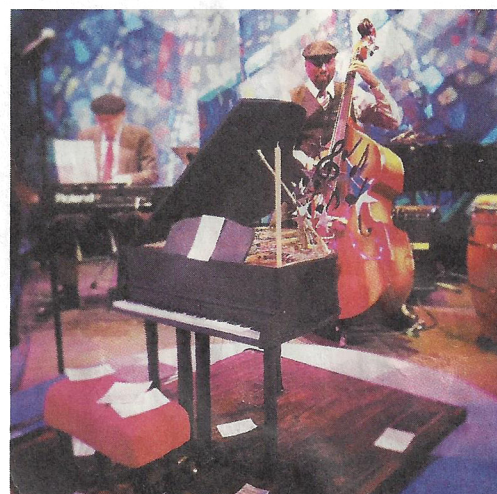


7:21 p.m. Jan. 15: Michael Tilson Thomas sports his personalized 70th birthday tux jacket.

After a rollicking and stellar onstage set (including **Yuja Wang**, **Emanuel Ax**, **Jean-Yves Thibaudet** and a joyful jam by the above-mentioned rock 'n' roll contingent), a post-party followed back in SoundBox, where **Larry Vuckovich** presided over a jazz trio as the maestro cut his baby-grand-piano-shaped cake.



6:13 p.m. Jan. 15: Denise Hale marks the 70th birthday of her pal the Symphony maestro.



Photos by Catherine Bigelow / Special to The Chronicle

11:07 p.m., Jan. 15: Pretty Please Bakeshop whipped up a baby-grand-piano cake for MTT.